09/943,658
AAA 9/25/07

Status of Claims

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Howard I. Sobelman on 28 August 2007.

2. The Application has been amended as follows-

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In claim 18, line ~~4~~ 6, replace "presenting to a user a payment option for using a smart card for payment" with "presenting to a user a payment option for using a smart card for payment in response to the detection of the smart card reader".

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In claim 18, lines ~~9-11~~ 14-16, replace "receiving, at said host system, a copy of said digital certificate and a signed challenge string from said client computer, after said user enters a Personal Identification Number (PIN) which triggers signing of said challenge string and accessing said digital certificate" with "receiving, at said host system, a copy of said digital certificate and a signed challenge string from said client computer, wherein said challenge string is signed to create the signed challenge string and said digital certificate is accessed in response to the user entering a Personal Identification Number (PIN)".

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In claim 23, line ~~2~~ 4 replace "detecting the presence of a smart card reader connected to said client computer" with "detecting the presence of a smart card reader connected to said client computer by a merchant computer over said distributed network".

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In claim 23, lines ~~3-4~~ 5-6 replace "presenting a user of said client computer with a payment option for using a smart card for payment" with "presenting a user of said client computer with a payment option for using a smart card for payment in response to the detection of the smart card reader".

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In claim 23, lines ~~12-14~~ 15-17 replace "receives a copy of said digital certificate and a signed challenge string from said client computer, after said user enters a Personal Identification Number (PIN) which triggers signing of said challenge

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string and accessing said digital certificate" with "receives a copy of said digital certificate and a signed challenge string from said client computer, wherein said challenge string is signed to create the signed challenge string and said digital certificate is accessed in response to the user entering a Personal Identification Number (PIN)."

3. Claims 18-20, 23-25, 35 and 37 have been examined.

4. Claims 18-20, 23-25, 35 and 37 are allowed.

Reasons of Allowance

5. The present invention is directed to transaction security. Securing online transactions is old and well known. For example, the Wall Street Journal discloses Secure Electronic Transaction ("Visa, Mastercard reach an agreement for single system of Internet payment", Jared Sandberg, Wall Street Journal, New York, N.Y., Feb. 1, 1996, pg. B2), while InternetWeek disclose Secure Socket Layer ("Network Infrastructure-SSL in the driver's seat", Keith Schultz, InternetWeek, Nov. 13, 2000, Issue 837, p49). Gifford (US 5,724,424) teaches entering a personal identification number, inserting a smart card into a smart card reader, and a system authenticating a user by receiving user authentication